

## ANOTHER JUNIPER (CUPRESSACEAE) IN JEFF DAVIS COUNTY TEXAS? WE'RE NOT CONVINCED

John P. Karges

*The Nature Conservancy*  
P.O. Box 2078  
Fort Davis, TX 79734, U.S.A.  
jkarges@tnc.org,

James C. Zech

*Department of Biology*  
Sul Ross State University  
Alpine, TX 79832, U.S.A.  
jzech@sulross.edu.

Within volume twenty, number two, of this journal, Griffith and Bartel (2002) answered our request (Karges & Zech 2001) for further study and documentation of *Cupressus arizonica* within the Davis Mountains of Jeff Davis County, Texas. While the effort has been made, we found several problems with the attempt, including the main points of concern that follow. Of the three additional specimens sampled from Jeff Davis County there is no indication that any were collected from the Davis Mountains, let alone the Davis Mountains Preserve (DMP). We're puzzled as to why fresh material of the Jeff Davis County *C. arizonica* or *Juniperus deppeana* from the DMP were not included for chloroplast DNA analysis. Both would have been made available upon request. Griffith and Bartel (2002) cite two specimens of the Jeff Davis County *C. arizonica*. Karges and Hedges 2480 is the only existing specimen, a second specimen, Karges s.n., was never collected. Griffith and Bartel's (2002) reference to, and discussion of, a mixed specimen is most puzzling, since neither Hedges (pers. comm.) nor Karges collected reproductive material.

Perhaps the chloroplast DNA data does suggest that the Jeff Davis County Arizona Cypress is Alligator Juniper. However, this study's discrepancies, along with the admittedly low 63% bootstrap, leave us unconvinced. We still recognize the tree in question as *C. arizonica*, and most importantly, continue to encourage additional, careful, study of this unique tree.

### REFERENCES

- GRIFFITH, M.P. and S.C. BARTEL. 2002. A Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*, Cupressaceae) in Jeff Davis County, Texas? *Sida* 20:585–592.
- KARGES, J.P. and J.C. ZECH. 2001. *Cupressus arizonica* (Cupressaceae) new to the Davis Mountains of West Texas. *Sida* 19:719–721.